

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Final Office Action dated 28 August, 2007, in which the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 6; rejected claim 16 as anticipated by Southworth, Jr. (US 3465834), indicated that claims 1-4 and 6-15 were allowed; and indicated that claims 17 and 19-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have amended the claims and respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance for the reasons set out below.

Objection to claims 3 and 6

Claims 3 and 6 have each been amended as recommended by the Examiner.

§ 102 Rejection of claim 16 as anticipated by Southworth, Jr. (US 3465834)

Claim 16 has been amended to further require that the downhole shock generator is configured to vibrate the penetration head in axial and radial directions. This limitation is neither disclosed in nor obvious in view of Southworth. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 16 is allowable over the art of record.

The Examiner is requested to note that Applicants intend to cancel claim 16, while reserving the right to pursue it in a continuation application, if the Examiner deems that claim 16 as currently amended is still not in condition for allowance. Therefore, *if the amended claim 16 is not found to be allowable*, the Examiner is respectfully requested to cancel claim 16 by Examiner's amendment so as to place the case in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 and 6-15

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-15.

Claims 17 and 19-23

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 16, from which it formerly depended. Claims 19-22 depend from claim 17 and claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 17. Claims 17 and 19-23 are therefore in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants have addressed each objection and ground for rejection. The present amendments place the claims in condition for allowance and Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner enter them and allow the case. In the event the

Examiner has any questions or there are any issues with respect to the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number below prior to the issuance of any written action.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN M. BETTS, JOSEF G. C. COENEN,
PIETER K. A. KAPTEIJN, PETER
OOSTERLING, and PAUL D. SCHILTE

P.O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77252-2463

By /Marcella D. Watkins/
Marcella D. Watkins
Registration No. 36,962
(713) 241-1041